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National Education Policy 2020 and its Role in the Sustainable Development of Indian Education

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Abstract:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a paradigm shift in the Indian academic landscape, transitioning from a traditional, pedagogical framework toward a holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary system. This article examines the strategic role of NEP 2020 in fostering the sustainable development of education in India, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). By restructuring the school system into a $5+3+3+4$ model and emphasizing Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), the policy addresses foundational gaps that previously hindered long-term educational equity.

The policy's commitment to Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), the integration of vocational training, and the internationalization of higher education are identified as key drivers for socio-economic sustainability. Furthermore, the shift from rote learning to critical thinking and the promotion of multilingualism ensure that the system remains culturally rooted yet globally competitive. This analysis concludes that while the NEP 2020 provides a robust theoretical framework for sustainability, its ultimate success depends on seamless inter-state implementation, substantial infrastructure funding, and the continuous professional development of educators to meet the demands of a 21^{st}-century knowledge economy.

Keywords: *NEP 2020, Sustainable Development, Indian Education System, SDG 4, Holistic Learning, Foundational Literacy, Higher Education Reform, Equity and Inclusion.*